

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8432

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: SUHARTO VISIT TO BURMA

1. SUMMARY. INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO VISITED BURMA AUGUST 26-29. GUB MADE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO RECIPROCATATE INDONESIAN HOSPITALITY TO NE WIN AND VARIOUS SENIOR BURMESE OFFICIALS IN PAST TWO YEARS, AND VISIT APPARENTLY PROCEEDED IN CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE. ADDITIONAL BILATERAL COOPERATION DISCUSSED BUT NO DETAILS YET AVAILABLE. COMMUNIQUE RESTATED WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS EXCEPT FOR BURMESE ENDORSEMENT OF INDONESIAN LOS POSITION ON ARCHIPELAGOES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT AND MRS. SUHARTO, ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN MALIK AND OTHER SENIOR INDONESIAN OFFICIALS, ARRIVED AUGUST 26 FOR "FRIENDLY VISIT" AND DEPARTED AUGUST 29. IN ADDITION TO USUAL STATE VISIT ACTIVITIES IN RANGOON, PRESIDENT AND MRS. NE WIN ESCORTED VISITORS TO MANDALAY AND PAGAN, WHERE SOME OF THE NE WIN-SUHARTO TALKS REPORTEDLY WERE HELD. GUB HAD TAKEN SPECIAL PAINS TO PROVIDE CORDIAL HOSPITALITY FOR SUHARTO IN VIEW OF THAT RECEIVED IN INDONESIA BY NE WIN AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL BURMESE VISITORS. BURMESE EFFORTS INCLUDED REFURBISHING OF ONE OF RANGOON GOLF COURSES, WHERE THE

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TWO HEADS OF STATE PLAYED A ROUND, AND PROCUREMENT (BY NE WIN ON

RECENT VISIT TO LONDON) OF TWO NEW MERCEDES LIMOUSINES FOR CEREMONIAL USE.

3. ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WARM AND FRIENDLY. COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AT END OF VISIT, PERHAPS AT INDONESIAN SUGGESTION, SINCE GUB TENDS TO AVOID FORMAL COMMUNIQUE ON OCCASION OF STATE VISITS. IT CALLED FOR "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY TIES AND COOPERATION" BETWEEN BURMA AND INDONESIA, WITH "EFFECTIVE STEPS TO EXPAND THE AREAS OF COOPERATION IN ALL POSSIBLE FIELDS FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT." NO DETAILS WERE ANNOUNCED, BUT MINISTRY OF MINES OFFICIAL SAID ONE AREA OF DISCUSSION WAS MINING AND PETROLEUM, AS FOLLOW-UP TO NE WIN'S LAST VISIT AND RECENT VISIT OF MINES MINISTER AND DELEGATION TO INDONESIA. EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL BETWEEN STATE PETROLEUM/MINING ENTERPRISES WAS ONE OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

4. ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, COMMUNIQUE RESTATED WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS. NE WIN AND SUHARTO WELCOMED FORMATION OF LAOS PGNU, EXPRESSED CONCERN AT CONTINUATION OF CONFLICT IN CAMBODIA AND VIET-NAM, "AND HOPED THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE KHMERE REPUBLIC AND VIET-NAM WILL SOON BE ABLE TO WORK OUT AMONG THEMSELVES SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL PROBLEMS." THEY NOTED "CONTINUED PRESENCE OF RIVALRY AND INTERVENTION OF OUTSIDE POWERS IN THE NATIONAL AFFAIRS" OF SEA STATES, AND CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT. LATTER STATEMENT PRECEDED BY COMMUNIQUE'S ASSERTION THAT "DESPITE SEVERAL FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS, THE AIM OF CREATING A LASTING AND DURABLE WORLD PEACE REMAINS ELUSIVE DUE TO THE PERSISTENT AND WIDENING GAP IN THE INCOME AND LIVING STANDARDS OF THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

5. ONLY NEW POSITION EXPRESSED IN COMMUNIQUE WAS STATEMENT THAT NE WIN "UNDERSTOOD AND SUPPORTED" SUHARTO'S EXPLANATION OF INDONESIAN LOS ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLE.
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